

DEPARTMENT OF OIL PROPERTIES

The Department of Oil Properties (DOP) is a chartered enterprise department of the City of Long Beach. It manages the City's oil interests and subsidence control measures. As the primary operator in the Wilmington Oil Field, the DOP maximizes oil revenues for the State of California, the City of Long Beach, and Mineral Rights Owners. Oil operations have generated over \$450 million for the City and over \$4.25 billion for the State.

HISTORY

The State of California granted the City its tidelands properties in the early 1900's for development of commerce, navigation, and recreation. When oil was discovered in adjacent lands in the 1930's, the City realized it needed to protect its assets.

In 1939, the Harbor Department created a Petroleum Division to provide technical assistance and advice to the Harbor Commission on all matters pertaining to oil operations in the Harbor District. It ensured compliance with operating agreements and the use of sound engineering and oil field practices.



In 1958, as a result of the devastating effects of subsidence during the 1940's and 1950's, the Harbor Department created a Subsidence Control Division to manage subsidence control and prevention. These divisions were combined into the Petroleum and Subsidence Control Division in 1960.

The City Council created the Petroleum Properties Administration in 1962 to oversee all oil operations outside the Harbor District. The DOP, which supplanted both organizations in 1965 through City Charter Amendment, coordinates all oil operations and subsidence control activities throughout the entire City. The DOP is composed of approximately 41 City employees. Most of the 28 engineers, geologists and managers, hold advanced degrees as well as California professional registration. The average experience level per employee exceeds 20 years in either engineering, geology or subsidence control.